

RESPONDING TO CLUSTER FOUR

THINKING ON YOUR OWN

Thinking Skill SYNTHESIZING

1. Each of the other clusters in this book is introduced by a question that is meant to help readers focus their thinking about the selections. What do you think the question for Cluster Four should be?
2. How do you think the selections in this cluster should be taught? Demonstrate your ideas by joining with your classmates to: create discussion questions, lead discussions about the selections, develop vocabulary activities, and/or prepare a cluster quiz.

REFLECTING ON *FLIGHTS OF FANTASY*

Essential Question WHY READ FANTASY?

Reflecting on this book as a whole provides an opportunity for independent learning and the application of the critical thinking skill called synthesis. *Synthesizing* means examining all the things you have learned from this book and combining them to form a greater understanding of the difference between reality and fantasy and the appeal of fantasy fiction.

1. After reading this book you should have a better idea of the broad range of fantasy literature. You should also have some well-formed positions on your reading preferences regarding this genre. As you read, your position may have changed from positive to negative or vice versa. Write an essay that states your opinion about reading fantasy. Start with an opinion statement such as "Reading fantasy fiction is _____. (silly, fun, a waste of time, a great escape, fascinating, boring, etc). Back up your opinion with reasons that explain why you feel as you do.
2. It is estimated that a child will watch 8000 murders on TV before finishing elementary school and by age 18 will witness 200,000 acts of television violence. Some people argue that this kind of media barrage plus video games, movies, song lyrics, and so forth have blurred the lines between fantasy and reality for young people. Stage a debate in your class on the following issue.
Resolved: Media violence destroys the ability to distinguish between fantasy and reality.
3. Individually or in small groups, develop an independent project that demonstrates your knowledge of and ideas about fantasy. Options might include research, music, dance, poetry, drama, original art, creating a fantasy art gallery, building a mini-library of fantasy favorites, or writing and reading aloud your own fantasy literature.